दक्षिण भारत में सुनामी के कारण पर्यटन उद्योग पर प्रभाव

*286. **प्रो. रामबक्ष सिंह वर्मा:**
प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय:††

क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सुनामी आपदा के कारण कई (घरेलू/विदेशी) पर्यटक मारे गये हैं तथा दक्षिण भारत में पर्यटन उद्योग बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हुआ है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या सरकार ने इसका कोई आकलन किया है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा दक्षिण भारत में पर्यटन उद्योग को इस सदमे से उबारने के लिए क्या विशेष कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। दक्षिण भारत में पर्यटन उद्योग पर सुनामी आपदा का कोई विशेष प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है और सुनामी के कारण देश में पर्यटक आगमन पर कोई नकारात्मक प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है। किसी भी प्रभावित राज्य सरकार/संघ शासित प्रदेश ने सुनामी के कारण पर्यटकों के मारे जाने की कोई सूचना नहीं दी है। पर्यटन सम्पत्तियों को कुछ हानि पहुंचने की सूचना मिली है जिसका ब्यौरा नीचे लिखे अनुसार है:-

(i) अण्डमान व निकोबार द्वीप समूह अधिकांश क्षति निकोबार द्वीप समूह को पहुंची है जहां अभी तक पर्यटन गतिविधियों को अनुमति प्रदान नहीं की गई है। अण्डमान द्वीप समूह में पर्यटन सम्पत्तियों को अपेक्षाकृत कम हानि पहुंची है और ये द्वीप समूह पर्यटन संबंधी गतिविधियों के लिए सुरक्षित हैं।

(ii) आन्ध्र प्रदेश : सूर्यलंका, गुंटूर जिले में आंध्र प्रदेश पर्यटन द्वारा संचालित बीच रिजॉर्ट को चार दीवारी सुनामी के कारण क्षतिग्रस्त हुई है।

(iii) केरल : कोलम, वेलीसंघूमकोम, वरकला, चेरई, थिरुनुलावरम, अलापूझा, कुन्नलगी, कोजीकोडे, बेकल, फोर्ट कोच्चि, मुझीपिलंगड के समुद्र तटों तथा अष्टमूडी बैकवाटर फ्रंट प्रभावित हुए हैं।

---

††यह प्रश्न सभा में प्रो॰ अलका क्षत्रिय द्वारा पूछा गया।

(iv) पांडिचेरी : सेंट जेम्स कोर्ट बीच रिजॉर्ट, चुन्नाम्बर रिजॉर्ट, होटल पांडिचेरी अशोक एवं डॉलफिन बीच, सीगुल्स रेस्तरां तथा कराईकल क्षेत्र में वाटर स्पोर्ट्स काम्प्लेक्स एवं बोट क्लब तथा यानम क्षेत्र में सीगुल्स रेस्तरां के कुछ क्षतिग्रस्त होने की सूचना मिली है।

(v) तमिलनाडु : मामल्लापुरम, मुत्तुकाडू, कन्याकुमारी, मुडायिरकुप्पम, नागापट्टनम, वेलंकन्नी तथा पुम्पुहार में टूरिस्ट कॉटेज / बीच रिजॉर्ट, होटल, बोटजेट्टी, लांचेज, पर्यटक सुविधाएं, भ्यू टावर, समुद्रतट सुविधाएं आदि क्षतिग्रस्त हुई हैं।

(ग) प्रभावित राज्य / संघ शासित प्रदेश क्षतिग्रस्त पर्यटक सम्पत्तियों के पुनर्निर्माण का कार्य कर रहे हैं। पर्यटन मंत्रालय राज्य सरकारों / संघ शासित पदेशों द्वारा प्रस्तुत विशिष्ट प्रस्तावों के आधार पर पर्यटन परियोजनाओं एवं आत्रसंरचना के लिए केन्द्रीय वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करके राज्य सरकारों / संघशासित प्रदेशों की मदद करता है। पर्यटन मंत्रालय ने यात्रा के लिए एक सुरक्षित गंतव्य के रूप में भारत की छवि को मजबूत बनाने के उद्देश्य से विदेशी व्यापार, उपभोक्ता, मीडिया को जानकारी देते रहने के लिए पहल / संवर्धनात्मक उपाय किए हैं।

Impact of Tsunami on Tourism Industry in South India

†*286. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:††

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tourists (domestic/foreign) have been killed and the Tourism industry in South India has been affected badly due to the Tsunami disaster;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any estimate has been made by Government for the same; and

(c) the special steps being taken by Government for the revival of Tourism industry in South India from the said setback?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) . (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Tsunami disaster has not significantly affected the tourism industry in South India and tourist arrivals to the country have not been adversely affected due to the Tsunami. None of the affected State Governments / Union territories has reported loss of life of tourists due to the Tsunami. Some damage to tourism properties has been reported by them, as per details given below :

(i) Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Most of the damage has occurred in the Nicobar Group of Islands, where tourism activities are not permitted so far. The damage to tourism properties in the Andaman Group of Islands has been comparatively less and these islands have been safe for tourism related activites.

(ii) Andhra Pradesh : The compound wall of the A.P. Tourism run Beach Resort at Suryalanka, guntur District, has been damaged due to the Tsunami.

(iii) Kerala : Beaches of Kovalam, Veli-Shanghumukom, Varkala, Cherai, Thirumullavaram, Alappuzha, Kumbalagi, Kozhikode, Bekal, Fort Kochi, Muzhippilangad and the Ashtamudi Backwater Front have been affected.

(iv) Pondicherry : Some damage reported to the St. James Court Beach Resort, Chunnambar resort, Hotel Pondicherry Ashok and Dolphin Beach, Seagulls Restaurant and Water Sports Complex in Karaikal Region and Boat Club and Seagulls Restaurant in Yanam Region.

(v) Tamil Nadu : Tourist cottages / beach resorts, hotels, boat jetty, launches, tourist amenities, view tower, beach facilities, etc. at Mamallapuram, Muttukadu, Kanyakumari, Mudaliyarkuppam, Nagapattinam, Velankanni and Poompuhar have been damaged.

(c) The affected States / Union Territories are undertaking work of re-building of the damages tourist properties. The Ministry of Tourism assists State Governments / Union Territories by providing Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects and infrastructure, based on specific proposals submitted by the State Governments / Union Territories. The Ministry of tourism has taken initiatives / promotional measures to keep the trade, consumer and media overseas briefed in order to reinforce the image of India as a safe destination for travel.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि नवम्बर-दिसम्बर, 2004 एवं जनवरी-फरवरी, 2005 में पांडिचेरी, अंडमान-निकोबार, तमिलनाडु और केरल में कितने डोमैस्टिक एवं विदेशी पर्यटक आए? क्या इनमें कमी आई है? यदि कमी आई है तो डोमैस्टिक और विदेशी पर्यटकों को सुनामी प्रभावित राज्यों में आने के लिए और पर्यटन उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए क्या ठोस कदम उठाए गए हैं?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am very happy to tell you all that despite the terrible harrowing effects of Tsunami on most of the South-East Asian countries,-- India as well which was affected, and, of course, our heart goes out to all the citizens who died in the Tsunami, but the fact remained that God in his grace was kind, ---no tourists, foreign or Indian origin, died during the Tsunami in these affected areas. And, after that, Sir, the arrivals of tourists in these areas have actually increased, surprisingly even for us. But the number of tourists has increased into these Tsunami-affected areas.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: किन्तु मैंने यह पूछा था कि कितने।

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, in December, we have had a plus of 23.5; in January, plus 14.5; and in February,we had a plus of 17.3.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: महोदय, मैंने राज्यवार ब्यौरा पूछा था।

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I can send her a written reply for all this. बहुत लम्बी लाइन होती है।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Hon.Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister for Tourism is basing ner answer on the reports sent by the State Governments.Sir, I am pained to say that tourism doesn't mean tourists only coming from abroad or domestic tourists coming for sight-seeing. There is religious-tourism also. In one place called.Velankanni, -- a Church is there -- on 26th morning, more than 3000 people who went for religious tourism died. It is in Tamil Nadu. In our place, in Mahabalipuram area, more than 60-70 people, who were tourists there, had died. The hon. Minister in her reply said that there are no reports of death of foreign or Indian tourists. These reports have come from the States. I dispute this statement. This is number one.

Sir, the hon. Minister in her statement has said that the financial assistance required by the State Governments will be given. Sir, the State

Governments write to them. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Tourism would send their officials to assess the damage caused to the tourist spots in all these four regions.I would like to know whether the required financial assistance would be given by them or not.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I think, we must understand and appreciate that there is a fine difference in pilgrims worshipping and the tourists who go to see the places of worships. So, people who went to Velankanni Church were not strangers who went to see the architecture or the local myth and folklore. They went to worship there which is a yearly practice. Of course, the loss of these pilgrims and the people who went to worship is horrifying, and there is no compensation for that,but to term them as tourists gets a little confusing because tne tourism has a specific agenda when people travel. The religious-tourism is a different issue which has to be examined and understood by the hon. Member. I am willing to sit with him separately and tell him. Now, the other issue, Sir, is that whether our panel has gone. Of course, immediately post-Tsunami, several measures were taken on how to contain the damage, as well as understand and estimate the damage that was done. A group of Experts consisting of different officials at different levels was sent from the Ministry. We are also collaborating with the State Governments to get the specific data as they perceive. Special reconstruction approaches and packages will be considered based on what the State Governments have asked for, and so far, it is only Tamil Nadu that has written back asking for specific help. As for the other three States, we are awaiting replies from them.

Regulatory Commission for the Petroleum Sector

*287. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:††

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned to set up a Regulatory Commission for the Petroleum sector;

(b) if so, whether it is to protect the interest of consumers on the lines of Telecom and Power Regulatory Commission;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Lalit Suri